

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.All business or news letter and telegraphic
despatches must be addressed New York
Herald.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

MIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE BULLDOG'S
EXTRAORDINARY FEAT.WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street.—
SCHOOL.BROOKLYN THEATRE, Twenty-fourth st.—EXPERI-
ENCE—MUCH AND ABOUT A MERCHANT OF VENICE.OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—HAPPY DUMPTY,
WITH NEW PLAYS.BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—THE SEVEN DWARFS;
OR, HANDELSON AND THE WORLD OF WONDER.BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—MISS KATE BRIG-
GINS AS GAMBELL.BOOTH'S THEATRE, 25th st., between 5th and 6th sts.—
ROMEO AND JULIET.GERMAN STADT THEATRE, Nos. 45 and 47 Bowery.—
MR. FREDERICK HANSEN IN NARBISSE.WOOD'S MUSEUM AND THEATRE, Thirtieth street and
Broadway.—Afternoon and evening performance.WATERLEY THEATRE, 7th Broadway.—ELIOT HOLT'S
SWEETLY COMPANY.THEATRE COMIQUE, 34 Broadway.—COMIC SKETCHES
AND LIVING STATUES.—FLO.THE TAMMANY, Fourteenth street.—THE HOUSE MA-
NAGER, &c.MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—
SCHOOL.SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 255 Broadway.—ETHIO-
PIAN ENTERTAINMENT.—SIR OF THE BLOODRED.BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Tammany Building, 14th
street.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELS, &c.TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 21 Bowery.—COMIC
VOCALISTS, NEGRO MINSTRELS, &c.NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street.—EQUESTRIAN
AND GYMNASTIC ENTERTAINMENT.STEINWAY HALL, Fourteenth street.—THE DAVENPORT
BROTHERS.HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Broadway.—HOOVER'S
MINSTRELS.—THE HUNTED WIDOW, &c.NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 313 Broadway.—
SCIENCE AND ART.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Friday, March 26, 1869.

MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The DAILY HERALD will be sent to subscribers
for one dollar a month.The postage being only thirty-five cents a
quarter, country subscribers by this arrangement
can receive the HERALD at the same price it is
furnished in the city.

THE NEWS.

Europe.

The cable telegrams are dated March 25.
The Hudson Bay Company has been advised to ac-
cept the proposition of the English Colonial Secre-
tary and cede their territorial rights in British North
America for \$300,000. The steamship companies
now employed to carry the mails between this
country and Great Britain have declined to modify
the terms of their late contract.

The conscription law passed by the Spanish Cortes
on the 22d inst. prescribes that no more men shall
be raised by conscription than are actually required
to fill the ranks of the army to their standard
strength. Twelve years is to be the Senatorial term
under the new constitution. Miramon, the Carlist
leader in Andalusia, has been captured.

The Pope has issued an invitation to foreign sove-
reigns to send representatives to the General Coun-
cil of the Church of Rome.

Cuba.

It is known in Havana that several American ex-
peditions have landed on the Cuban shores within a
few days. Many evidences of disloyalty are reported
among the officers and troops. Four companies of
volunteers, in the field for active service, have
gone over to the insurgents, and a delegation at
Havana have charged Patino, the Governor of Tri-
nidad; Mondaco, Governor of Villa Clara, and Colonel
Mendina, commanding the forces near Remedios,
with open complicity with the revolutionists.

The refugee Cubans in Kansas are very loud in
their denunciations against Spanish rule, and the
Spanish Consul here is much alarmed. One of the
Peruvian monitors, while touching at Port Marango,
was visited by the insurgent generals.

Mr. Paul B. Du Chailu gives elsewhere in the
HERALD this morning a description of Fernando Po,
the penal colony to which the political prisoners in
Cuba are being transported.

Mexico.

We have mail advices from Vera Cruz to the 14th
inst. Gutierrez, the kidnapper, who has been ar-
rested, denounces General Canto as his principal,
and claims to have kidnapped certain persons on
Canto's order. It is rumored that Canto had been
tried and executed. The papers state that President
Juarez has recently received \$53,000 from the
Treasury without authority. Colonel Mayer, who is
in prison for aiding Negrete, was during our civil
war lieutenant colonel of a colored regiment under
General Weitzel.

Havil.

Accompanying the recent report of Admiral Hoff
on affairs in Hayti was a statement of persons living
within the lines of the rebel forces under Domingue
relative to barbarities practised upon prisoners.
There were 109 of those prisoners shot, ten of whom
were women and one a child. Their manner of
executing them was most revolting.

Congress.

In the Senate yesterday William T. Hamilton, Sen-
ator from Maryland, appeared and took the oath.
Mr. Sprague submitted a preamble to the bill intro-
duced by him a few days ago to provide for loaning
the public money. Mr. Sherman's bill supplementary
to the act to provide a national currency, was taken
up. It was discussed at some length, but without
action upon it. The Senate, after a short executive
session, adjourned.

In the House, Mr. Butler introduced a bill to re-
store a republican government to the State of Georgia
under its new constitution, which was referred to
the Committee on Reconstruction. It authorizes
the Governor to reassemble the old Legislature, the
members of which must take the test oath, and de-
clares the expulsion of the negro members as void.
The bill providing a provisional government for Mis-
sissippi was then taken up, and Mr. Wood made a
long speech in opposition to it. The bill was then
laid aside and the Senate amendments to the bill
repealing the Tenure of Office act was taken up.
Messrs. Butler and Logan strongly opposed the
amendments, both averring that it was an ex-
pression of want of confidence in President Grant,
and stating that although he tries to rest contented
with the bill as it is, for the sake of peace in the
party, it is not what he desires. Mr. Logan offered
an amendment that all civil officers, except judges,
filled before the 4th of March, 1869, shall become
vacant by the 30th of June. This amendment and
the amendment of the Senate were then referred to
the Judiciary Committee by a vote of 95 to 79, and
the House adjourned.

The Legislature.

In the Senate yesterday bills were introduced to
lay out an avenue from Prospect Park to Fort
Hamilton, and for an additional almshouse in Brook-
lyn. Bills incorporating the Passenger Transit Com-
pany; prohibiting the use of steam in the Second
avenue; to confer citizenship on Indians desiring it;
increasing the penalty for the procurement of abor-
tion; and relative to opening public streets in New
York were reported. Another veto message rela-

tive to special legislation was received from the
Governor.

In the Assembly the consideration of the Supply
bill was indefinitely postponed. The bill facilitating
the construction of the New York and Albany Rail-
road was ordered to a third reading. The report of
the Quarantine Commissioners on the erection of a
hospital on the West Bank was referred to the Com-
mittee on Navigation, with power to report by bill.
Mr. Mitchell, from the Gas Investigating Committee,
gave notice that he would report a bill to-day for the
regulation of the New York gas companies. Bills
establishing a court having jurisdiction over idle
and truant children and for an underground railroad
on the west side of New York were passed.

Miscellaneous.

Despatches were received yesterday stating that
ex-President Johnson was seriously ill at his resi-
dence in Greenville, Tenn. Later last evening a
despatch from a member of the family was received
stating that he was much better.

The Cuban agents paid an unofficial visit to the
Secretary of State yesterday at his residence. No
credentials were presented.

Among the nominations sent into the Senate yester-
day were Edward B. Pimms as Consul General at
Havana and Alonzo B. Cornell as Surveyor of the
Port of New York.

The government of Prince Edward Island has
been officially informed by the Imperial government
that it cannot enter into negotiations with the
United States with a view to reciprocity without
co-operation of the other British American pro-
vinces.

Parshall & Schawlin, private bankers, of Buffalo,
failed Wednesday evening. Their liabilities are
\$40,000, while they show only \$4,000 assets.

A young Bostonian, named Pine, on Wednesday
shot and fatally wounded a Miss Howard, and then
shot himself dead. Cause, unrequited love.

The City.

A mass meeting to express sympathy with the
Cuban insurgents was held in Steinway Hall last
evening. Speeches were made by Mayor Hall, Henry
Ward Beecher, Paul B. Du Chailu and others.
Strong resolutions were adopted.

In the Board of Health yesterday the case of the
fever ship was taken up and a resolution was
adopted directing inquiry as to the number of sick
persons on the ship James Foster, Jr.; who is re-
sponsible for their being landed, and who aided them
to land without the permission of the Board.

The Commissioners of Emigration continued their
investigation in regard to the fever ship yesterday.
Additional testimony was taken, and the inquiry
was postponed until Monday.

Some of the quartermen on strike assembled in
Fifty-seventh street yesterday and warned the men
employed there to cease working. No disturbance
took place.

Yesterday was "opening day," and the devotees
of fashion were on Broadway in force.
William Walton, indicted for dealing in counter-
feit fractional currency, and who has been in jail
awaiting trial for the last two months, was yester-
day, on representations of the United States District
Attorney, discharged on his own recognizance.

In the United States Commissioners' Court A.
Lichtenheim, who had been under examination for
some time past on a charge of defrauding the gov-
ernment of over \$1,000 on false cigar stamps, was
discharged, the Commissioner holding that the testi-
mony did not sustain the charge. Jacob Freund,
charged with frauds in stamping and selling cigars
in fraud of the revenue tax, was also discharged,
the evidence against him being insufficient to hold
him for trial.

In the Court of General Sessions yesterday, Judge
Bedford presiding, Charles A. Allen pleaded guilty
to an attempt at larceny, and was sentenced to the
Penitentiary for one year. William Strate, convicted
of attempting to steal a horse, was sent to the Peni-
tentiary for one year.

The human line steamship City of Paris, Captain
Kennedy, will leave pier 45 North river at one P. M.
to-morrow (Saturday) for Liverpool via Queenstown.
The European mails will close at the Post Office at
twelve M. on the 27th inst.

The steamship Helvetia, Captain Thompson, of the
National line, will sail from pier 47 North river at
three P. M. on Saturday, 27th inst., for Liverpool,
calling at Queenstown to land passengers.

The Anchor line steamship Columbia, Captain Car-
raghan, will leave pier 20 North river at twelve M.
to-morrow (Saturday) for Glasgow, touching at Lon-
donderry.

The Merchants' line steamship General Grant,
Captain Quick, will sail from pier No. 12 North river
at three P. M. on Saturday, 27th inst., for New Or-
leans direct.

The stock market yesterday was generally firm.
New York Central was very irregular. Gold was
unusually dull, finally closing at 131 1/4.

Prominent Arrivals in the City.

Baron Schlozer, Minister of the North German
Union, Berlin, and E. H. King, of Montreal, are at
the Brevoort House.

Lieutenant Huggins, of the United States Army, is
at the St. Denis Hotel.

Major W. B. Richards, of Virginia, is at the New
York Hotel.

Gerritt H. Smith, of New York; J. S. Cunningham,
of the United States Navy, and Colonel C. W. C. Mc-
Coy, of Baltimore, are at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

General W. T. Tibbitts, of Troy, is at the Hoffman
House.

General Geo. J. Stannard, of Vermont; Professor
Samuel Gardner, of Washington, and Colonel H. W.
Friedley, of the United States Army, are at the Met-
ropolitan Hotel.

Captain R. Bailey, of the United States Army, is at
the St. Charles Hotel.

Judge Kattell, of Binghamton, and Judge Brown-
ing, of New Jersey, are at the Astor House.

Dr. Andrew Layrance, of Buffalo, Captain R.
Halsey, of the United States Army, and E. R. Men-
dum, of Baltimore, are at the St. Julien Hotel.

Mr. J. W. Fabens, Commissioner to the Domini-
can government, arrived yesterday from St. Domingo
city, with important despatches.

Prominent Departures.

Lieutenant Governor Gardner and Colonel Sibley
left yesterday for Burlington, Vt.; Judge R. R.
Sioane, Dr. Demoscent and E. Giddings, for Wash-
ington; J. W. Pierce, for Boston; Lieutenant Com-
mander Woodroe, for Philadelphia; W. S. Church,
for Albany; J. S. Ranney, for Canada; Lieutenant
Commander Kellogg, for Ohio; H. D. Chapin, for
Boston; Thomas Cornell, for Albany; J. C.
Smethurst, for Philadelphia, and Mr. J. W. Faens,
for Washington.

AMERICAN SYMPATHY WITH THE CUBANS.—A
very crowded meeting was held in Steinway Hall
last evening, with the view of expressing the
sympathy of the citizens of New York with the
Cuban people in their struggle for independence. Mayor Hall presided. The
assembly was addressed in eloquent terms by the
Rev. Henry Ward Beecher; strong
resolutions were passed urging on the Cabinet
in Washington the propriety of according bel-
ligerent rights to the Cubans, and of other-
wise aiding the movement of the people of the
island.

HOW THEY HANDLE THE MONEY.—As the
Board of Education and its doings are now up
for popular review it would be apropos to have
the full history of that celebrated forged
check for seventeen thousand dollars, and we
are glad to see by the reports that the whole
story is promised in an investigation soon to
take place. As it is claimed on one hand that
the falsity of the check is ridiculously palpa-
ble, and on the other that the paper is genuine,
the details will doubtless be piquant.

SPANISH VICTORIES IN CUBA.—If the
Spaniards wish their accounts of victories
in Cuba to be believed they must kill a
few more of their own side than they ac-
knowledge. One man killed and one
wounded in a fight of three hours where
two hundred insurgents are finished off is
not enough to cover the bill.

The Outrage of the Senate Upon the Ex-
ecutive Power.

The amendment to the Tenure of Office act
which has, through the Committee on the Judi-
ciary, been presented to the action of Congress,
can only be classed as an insult to our form of
government. The Senate by passing it yields
no point in its usurpation of power. The old
act may be called an executive guillotine, and
the amendment is the knife which, raised
scarcely out of sight, only awaits the touch of
the executioners in the Senate to strike off the
Presidential head which they have forced
under it.

Section two of the proposed amendment
gives the President the right to suspend any
officer during a recess of the Senate, and this
body may, if it think proper, restore said
officer to his position, no matter how much he
may impede executive action in its proper
sphere. Suppose, for instance, that President
Grant, in accordance with his inaugural, which
the country so heartily endorsed, found that
any member of his Cabinet failed in his
duty and hampered the just and rigid
application of the laws—the Senate,
despite the removal of that officer by
the Executive, could retain him in power
and thus virtually block the wheels of gov-
ernment. We should then see a Cabinet
officer more powerful than the President who
appoints him and to whom the laws make him
responsible for the fulfillment of his duties.
How, in this case, can the people of the United
States hold the President responsible for the
branch of the government entrusted to him by
the constitution? The whole amendment is,
in the language of Daniel O'Connell, when de-
nouncing a celebrated compromise measure
before the English Parliament, "a cheat, de-
lusion and a snare."

It is evident that the radical republicans
are blind to the fact that the people elect
President Grant because they be-
lieved him fitted to fill the post of Executive
officer in accordance with the provisions of
the constitution of the United States. If the
Senate refuses to surrender the usurped
powers it now holds it will be a virtual an-
nouncement to the nation that the constitution
of the United States is a humbug and a farce.
In fact, the action of Congress for some time
past has proven this, and now the Senate
chooses to endorse the decision through the
amendment to the Tenure of Office act.

This absorption of executive authority by
a body which is not held responsible
for its use is already producing a com-
plete demoralization in the ranks of the
republican party, and evidences of this are
very observable in the discussions of the
Senate for the past two weeks. Failure of its
leaders to have a just respect for the desires
of the people who have placed them in power
threatens to make political changes which
advance to a point but little short of actual
revolution. And what has the Senate done
with all this usurped power? The South has
not advanced an inch in the last two years,
notwithstanding all the experimental legisla-
tion. Does the Senate understand that the
North is paying the bills for these experi-
ments? Bad legislation for one section re-
flects very severely upon the other, and the
people of the North are very little disposed
to be misled simply to support legal quibblings
and technicalities. Give the whole country
more legislation for its material prosperity,
and we shall advance. Since the rebellion
we have had nothing but political measures,
and these have been urged forward with a
party animosity which has completely ignored
the existence of our material interests. The
Tenure of Office act, throwing into the hands
of the Senate the control of the whole army
of public servants, has linked with their
legislative functions, given them a greater
power than has ever before been possessed by
any legislative body in the civilized world. The
United States Senate to-day handle the wealth
and honors of the whole nation, and the ex-
tent to which they have used their vast power
has only been limited by the yielding pressure
which up to this time has been opposed to
them by the people. That pressure is, how-
ever, no longer yielding. The country is sick
to disgust with a body which is forgetful of all
national prosperity and only alive to personal
ambition and party rule.

The House of Representatives are nearer to
the people than the Senate. They feel the
pulsations of the national heart quicker. They
should, therefore, reject the amendment offered
by the Senate and boldly aid the Executive we
have elected. Mr. Butler, clear-headed and
sagacious, stands by the people, and the tele-
graph informs us that he will only be con-
tented with the restoration to General Grant
of all the authority of the executive office. If,
however, the House fail in its duty, let the
President veto the amendment and make issue
immediately with the Senate for the restora-
tion of the executive power. The people will
support him in this contest; for, despite the
ruff influence, despite the desire of the few to
curtail the many in contravention of our gov-
ernmental system, despite the power to which
the Senate clings, the President can defeat
them; for they cannot afford in such a con-
test to wreck the republican party by clinging
to stolen property.

POPULAR RIGHTS AND POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY.—Our Spanish friends are rather
illogical in the courses they are pursuing in
different localities. In Spain the whole nation
is roused on the question of revolution, and
the recent election of the Cortes for the
purpose of forming a new government is a
complete acceptance of the doctrine of popular
sovereignty. In Cuba the denial of the same
right to the Cubans is a contradiction and
a denial of the right of popular sovereignty.
Logically viewed, the fact appears that when
the Spaniards overthrow the throne the
powers of government returned to the peo-
ple, and Cubans and Spaniards each hold
the right to reconstruct their political scheme
as to each shall seem best.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION OF TEXAS.—The
Austin (Texas) State Gazette of the 12th inst.,
although opposed to several of the provisions
in the proposed new constitution of Texas,
advises the conservative people of the State
to vote for it, adding:—"We don't defend the
constitution—we are not responsible for it,
neither are the real people of Texas. We are
for taking it because we can do no better and
because we may be placed in a worse condi-
tion by rejecting it." Sensible.

Encouragement of American Maritime In-
terests.

The prompt action in the House of Repre-
sentatives on the resolution of Mr. Lynch to
create a select committee of nine to inquire
into and report upon American maritime in-
terests shows that this important subject is
likely to receive at last some consideration.
The committee is to inquire into the causes of
the great reduction of American tonnage en-
gaged in the foreign carrying trade and the
great depression in the navigation interests of
the country; also to report what measures are
necessary to increase our ocean tonnage,
revive maritime interests and to regain for our
country the relative position which it once held
among nations as a maritime Power. There
will be little difficulty in ascertaining the cause
of the decline of our tonnage; the war and the
Alabama and her fellow corsairs explain that.
But the question is how are we to get
back to the position we held before the war.
No country is more favorably situated than ours
for erecting and maintaining a vast mercantile
marine. Our immense seaboard, numerous
harbors, the seafaring character of a large
portion of the American people, our skill in
shipbuilding and our vast forests of fine timber
and exhaustless mines of iron, all contributed
to make this country, a few years ago, first in
maritime importance, and will do so again
under proper laws and encouragement.
Everything possible should be done to en-
courage shipbuilding; but until we are in a
situation to compete with foreign builders the
government should permit our citizens to regis-
ter vessels built by and purchased of foreign-
ers. If Americans can build or purchase
vessels abroad cheaper than at home let them
do so, and let their property become American
and under the American flag and protection.
If we cannot compete at present with foreign
shipbuilders let us do, then, the next best
thing—get our ships elsewhere; and, at all
events and under any circumstances, let us
restore our lost maritime position among the
nations. We hope the committee will take this
broad and liberal view of the subject and re-
port accordingly.

Serious Progress of the Cuban Revolution.

By telegram from Havana, dated yesterday,
we learn that the Cuban revolution is in most
serious progress as against the Spanish au-
thority, and, in consequence of recent suc-
cesses, that the insurgents are likely to obtain
the aid of some of the leading men of the
island, official and non-official. A commission
from Trinidad reported to the Captain General
that Señor Patino, Governor of that place,
was "actively disloyal"; that he marched
troops to places where there was no enemy,
and that they believed he had "sold himself"
to the insurgents. Similar complaints had
been lodged against other prominent officials,
and a general distrust of executive good faith
appeared to prevail. The commander of the
forces in the field near Remedios was charged
with open complicity with the insurrection.
Four companies of mobilized volunteers had
gone over to the enemy, and General Letona's
advance had been defeated near Cienfuegos.
Expeditionary forces from the United States,
well supplied with arms, are said to have landed
on the shores and joined the rebel armies at
different points. It appears as if the move-
ment were the "beginning of the end" of
Spanish authority in Cuba.

SPAIN—A KING AD INTERIM.—A com-
mittee properly enough appointed has given
in its report to the Spanish Cortes on a
new constitution. Some of the recom-
mendations are good enough, but all the good
recommendations are old. One recommendation
at least is old—that a king, or queen, or
emperor or empress should have a trial of
eighteen years. Eighteen years is a pretty
good term for the incumbent, but it might
prove very inconvenient for the people. Louis
Napoleon did not require so long a period
to make himself Emperor of the French. A
shorter period might prove a weaker man than
Louis Napoleon a bore or something worse.

It does not appear from any present man-
ifestations that the Latin races are improving
in the art of self-government. A king for
eighteen years is a king only *ad interim*, but
the interim is unconsciously long.

SPECIE PAYMENT RESTORED.—The driver
of a Third avenue car swore the other day that
a policeman paid his fare of six cents in small
silver, and that he, the said driver, heard the
said silver jingle.

THE BEAUTIES OF LOYALTY.—The applica-
tion of oaths so largely made in the South by
the government, and the disfranchisement of
all refusing to do the stringent swearing, re-
ceives a very odd illustration in Missouri.
Frank Blair, Jr., lately candidate for Vice
President, is disfranchised in his own State
because of his activity as a Union soldier
early in the war. The oath requires the voter
to swear, among other things, that he has
never taken up arms against the State. Early
in the war Missouri was in the hands of the
rebels, and her Governor organized as State
troops a secession force. Blair helped to capture
that force, and therefore cannot take the oath.

A SUPPOSED THAP.—The English and Eu-
ropean journals generally show that on the
other side of the Atlantic our doings in refer-
ence to Cuba are being closely watched. It
is the general expectation that we are about
to fall into a trap; in other words, that Cuba,
unconsciously to us, is about to settle the Al-
abama and all similar questions. Our English
and European friends make a big mistake.
They forget that America is not Europe—that
Cuba is not Spain or Greece or Poland or Ire-
land. We have some faith yet in the Monroe
doctrine. America for the Americans. When
they catch us napping they will have a perfect
right to say so.

TO THE PACIFIC VIA VICKSBURG.—The Vic-
sburg Herald, commenting upon the statement
that the Pacific Railroad was snowed up and
remained so for a number of days because the
employés were too lazy to shovel their way
out, remarks:—"Why will not Congress,
which has been so lavish in its expenditures
of national capital for the building of this
road, do something towards constructing a
Southern line from Vicksburg to the Pacific,
where these annoying obstacles would be
obviated?" General Grant once laid siege to
Vicksburg with a successful issue; now let
Vicksburg lay siege to him for the attainment
of the above object.

Street Obstructions.

During the past two years we have repeatedly
called attention to the nuisances arising
from the encumbrance of the sidewalks and
roadways of our public thoroughfares by build-
ers and others in the execution of private con-
tracts. These evils were especially noticeable
in Fifth, Madison, Lexington and others of the
fashionable avenues and streets of the city,
and the result of our exposures of them is that
the nuisances have been to a great extent
abated on some of the streets. We called the
attention of the public officers whose duty it is
to protect the rights of the people in the mat-
ter, and when they at last moved in the en-
forcement of the law they found their authority
ample and the law full and comprehensive.
This clearly proves that the evils are to a great
extent the result of inefficiency and dilatori-
ness on the part of the Street Commissioner,
and he has not yet finished the work he began
under our suggestion. At the present time a
dozen obstructions of the most dangerous char-
acter are to be found on Fifth avenue, north
of Fortieth street, one of them in particular
being the unprotected opening of a sewer cut.
In another column will be found a report of
the principal encroachments and nuisances on
the avenues by builders and contractors, which
shows that from Fortieth street to Fifty-third
street there is, on an average, one obstruction
to every block of houses. Planks, mortar,
lime, bricks and huge masses of stone lie in
huge piles or heaps, in many cases incom-
moding traffic to such an extent that two
vehicles abreast cannot pass these locations.

It is well known, of course, that there is
always a certain class of people in the com-
munity who are averse to doing anything
except such matters as they are compelled by
circumstances to perform, and we suppose that
the contractors in the instances above referred
to belong to that class. Many well paid public
officials are afflicted with a similar indisposi-
tion to shoulder their responsibilities and do
their duty, and among these may be ranked
our Street Commissioner. The majority of
the people, however, have enacted laws and
adopted ordinances for the regulation of this
class of persons, and expect these laws enforced.
Why, then, after a public reproach has been
laid bare, is it that many who are culpable
having conformed to the requirements of
these laws a few persistent and barefaced
contractors and property owners are per-
mitted to follow the same offensive
course that was prohibited as to others? If
two or three contractors have a right to
encumber a public street, all contractors have
the like privilege, and if all contractors have
such authority, then it is clear that the com-
munity who live upon and most frequent those
thoroughfares have no rights which the con-
tractors are bound to respect.

A few days since, acting under a rare im-
pulse of zeal, the Street Commissioner
marshalled a brigade of men, paraded up
Broadway, and seized and removed half a
dozen flag poles, on the ground that they were
"obstructions." But that spasm of virtue
subsided after such an arduous day's duty,
and meantime the great highways of the
metropolis are allowed to remain in a condition
of barricade, to the great inconvenience of the
public and to the jeopardy of life and limb.

PILING UP THE AGONY.—Victor Hugo's
well known cumulative style of working up a
certain effect by the progressive addition of
epithets went far in "Les Misérables," but
goes further in the forthcoming novel, if we
may judge from an extract given out wherein
matter is called an "unfathomable amalgamation
of immeasurable energies wherein one some-
times recognizes an imperceptible amount of
horrible intention." It is not easy generally
to recognize the "imperceptible," but perhaps
this is better than describing a storm as "a
fall from an epileptic fit into the infinite." Hugo
has here reached so far for the sublime as
to lose his balance. Like Mrs. Lirriper, he
has gone on and gone over.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.—The Police
Commissioners request their legal advisers to
say whether the commission is entitled to re-
cover from Captain Young that sixteen thou-
sand dollars that under the police rules ought
to go into the Police Life Insurance Fund. In
case the commission is not so entitled to recover,
the next question will be whether policemen
who have previously and no doubt unwillingly
paid their rewards into that fund are not en-
titled to a return of the money.

THE POSSIBILITIES OF COMBINATION.—If all
the railroads, banks, telegraph companies and
other large monopolies of the country acted
together for some common purpose they would
thus combine a capital at least equal to the
whole national debt, and in addition to the
control of such an immense money force could
control directly from half a million to a million
votes. What could resist such a "balance of
power"? What arrangement or division of
parties could there ever be in the United States
where such a combination could not always
and absolutely determine victory in favor of the
party it decided to act with? Could not such a
power, in forming the alliance that parties
would be so eager to make, dictate the party
policy? Is not our republic, then, at the point
where it inevitably falls into the hands of a
financial oligarchy?

THE NEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
STATE.—Bancro